

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A device for processing digital images
2 comprising:

3 a reference platform;

4 an camera interface coupled to the reference

5 platform and operable to receive a digital input; and

6 an communication interface coupled to the reference

7 platform operable to communicate said digital input to a

8 wide area network.

1 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the reference
2 platform comprises:

3 a processor operable to execute instructions; and

4 a data storage media operable to store configuration

5 data and said digital input.

1 3. The device of claim 1, wherein the
2 communication interface device is operable to communicate
3 to a service provider.

1 4. The device of claim 1, wherein the
2 communication interface is a dial up modem.

1 5. The device of claim 1, wherein the
2 communication interface is to a broadband enabled
3 network.

1 6. The device of claim 1, wherein the
2 communication interface is an ethernet.

1 7.. The device of claim 1, wherein the
2 communication interface is a token ring.

1 8. The device of claim 1, wherein the
2 communication interface is a FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data
3 Interface).

1 9. The device of claim 1, wherein the
2 communication interface is an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer
3 Mode) .

1 10. The device of claim 1, wherein the
2 communication interface uses TCP/IP (Transmission Control
3 Protocol/Internet Protocol).

1 11. The device of claim 1, wherein the camera
2 interface is selected from a group consisting of Smart
3 Media, Compact Flash, USB, BlueTooth, Sony Memory Stick,
4 floppy disk, compact disk, and zip disk.

1 12. The device of claim 1, further comprising a
2 digital camera coupled to the reference platform.

1 13. A method for processing digital images
2 comprising the steps of:
3 providing image data on a storage media;
4 connecting the storage media to a reference
5 platform;
6 connecting the reference platform to a service
7 provider; and
8 uploading the image data to the service
9 provider.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of editing the uploaded image data on the service
3 provider.

1 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of processing the image data in the storage media.

1 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of deleting image data from the storage media after
3 each image is uploaded.

1 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of enabling a user to view the image via a web
3 browser.

1 18. The method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of providing that the service provider print the
3 image.

1 19. The method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of creating a web page with the image data.

1 20. The method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of creating a compact disk with the image data.

1 21. The method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of directing the image data to be processed at a
3 processing center in close proximity to the end user.

1 22. A method for processing digital images
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing for a reference platform;
4 establishing a standard default profile in the
5 reference platform;

6 connecting a reference platform to a website
7 for setting initial user profile information; and

8 downloading initial user profile information
9 onto the reference platform.

1 23. The method of 22 wherein establishing a
2 standard default profile comprises:

3 providing a modem; and
4 setting a phone number to dial.

1 24. The method of 22 wherein user profile
2 information is selected from a group consisting of:

3 a username and password;
4 an identification number of a device;
5 a method of payment;
6 a setting to allow access;
7 a printing preference;
8 a printing location preference;
9 a mailing preference; and
10 an e-mailing preference.

1 25. A method for processing digital images
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing a reference platform;
4 establishing a standard default profile in the
5 reference platform; and

6 establishing initial user profile information
7 on the reference platform without requiring user
8 interface.

1 26. The method of 25 wherein user profile
2 information is selected from a group consisting of:

3 a username and password;
4 an identification number of a device;
5 a method of payment;
6 a setting to allow access;
7 a printing preference;
8 a printing location preference;
9 a mailing preference; and
10 an e-mailing preference.

1 27. A method for processing digital images
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing a reference platform device from a
4 retail outlet to a consumer;

5 connecting the device to a central server;

6 establishing an account with the central
7 server;

8 configuring the device;

9 uploading images to the central server; and

10 directing the central server to process images.

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1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of
2 providing the reference platform device to a consumer
3 further comprises giving the device to the consumer for
4 free.

1 29. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of
2 directing the central server to process images further
3 comprises the step of printing the images at a printer at
4 the central server's site.

1 30. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of
2 directing the central server to process images further
3 comprises the step of impressing the images onto a CD
4 with a CD writer

1 31. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of
2 directing the central server to process images further
3 comprises the step of placing the images on a web site.

1 32. The method of claim 27, further comprising the
2 step of directing that the images be forwarded to a
3 server at a local store.

1 33. The method of claim 32, further comprising the
2 step of printing the images at a printer at the local
3 store's site.

1 34. The method of claim 32, further comprising the
2 step of impressing the images onto a CD with a CD writer
3 at the local store's site.

1 35. The method of claim 27, further comprising the
2 step of directing that the images be forwarded to the
3 user.

1 36. The method of claim 35, further comprising the
2 step of printing the images at a printer at the user's
3 site.

1 37. The method of claim 27, further comprising the
2 step of allowing the user to connect to central server to
3 manipulate the images.

1 38. The method of claim 27, wherein the device is
2 pre-configured with settings directed to the retail
3 outlet's server.

1 39. The method of claim 27, wherein the device is
2 pre-configured with a setting to direct that uploaded
3 images are sent to the store that provided the device.

1 40. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of
2 uploading images to the central server is determined by a
3 user preference which specifies the time when uploading
4 is to occur.

1 41. The method of claim 27, further comprising the
2 step of mailing processed images to the consumer.

1 42. The method of claim 27, further comprising the
2 step of transmitting processed images to the consumer.

1 43. The method of claim 27, further comprising the
2 step of making the processed images available for the
3 consumer to pick up.

1 44. A method for configuring a reference platform
2 by a user comprising the steps of:

3 contacting a service provider;
4 submitting information to said service provider;
5 creating an account for said user by said service
6 provider;

7 connecting said reference platform to a
8 communication receptacle; and

9 contacting said service provider with said reference
10 platform;

11 wherein said reference platform downloads said
12 configuration script.

1 45. A method of processing digital images
2 comprising the steps of:
3 connecting an imaging device to a reference
4 platform, said reference platform having a pre-defined
5 configuration script;
6 generating a print request form with said imaging
7 device, said print request form designating at least one
8 image file for processing;
9 uploading said print request form, said at least one
10 image file and said configuration script to said service
11 provider via said reference platform;
12 processing said at least one image file according to
13 said print request form for generate a processed image;
14 and
15 delivering said processed image to said user.